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To: R7 Senior Staff [R7_Senior_Staff@epa.gov]
Subject: R7 OPA Daily Clippings - 1/11/21

EARNED VALUE NEWS

Environmental Defense Fund (blog) - Implications of Home Depot's lead-based paint settlement and \$20 million penalty - 1/8/21 - Last month, the EPA signed a proposed civil consent decree with Home Depot committing the company to establishing a comprehensive set of detailed procedures designed to ensure compliance with the rules and protect customers from lead poisoning. <https://bit.ly/3q2y5zY>

Des Moines Register - All test kits claimed for free program to measure lead in water, University of Iowa says - 1/10/21 - A University of Iowa program to provide free testing for lead in tap water has received requests for all the test kits it has available, researchers say. <http://bit.ly/35viFMW>

Keokuk (IA) Daily Gate City - EPA encourages radon testing in homes - 1/10/21 - This week marks the beginning of National Radon Action Month. Much of EPA Region 7 states (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska) have counties with elevated indoor radon screening levels. EPA developed the Radon Zone Map in 1993 to identify areas of the U.S. with the potential for elevated indoor radon levels. EPA Map of Radon Zones including State Radon Information and Contacts. <http://bit.ly/3i0tGKW>

Hays (KS) Post - Ellis County, NW Kan. in EPA's risk zone for high radon levels - 1/9/21 - This is National Radon Action Month. Every January, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency urges everyone across the United States to test their homes for radon gas. <http://bit.ly/3qfvWRD>

R7 IN THE NEWS

The Guardian (USA) - 'There's a red flag here': how an ethanol plant is dangerously polluting a US village - 1/10/21 - Situation in Mead, Nebraska, where AltEn has been processing seed coated with fungicides and insecticides, is a warning sign, experts say. <http://bit.ly/3i0tGKW> Also Yahoo!news, Daily Magazine, MSN, Business Telegraph, AquaNow

U.S. Right to Know - Nebraska regulatory documents regarding AltEn neonicotinoid contamination - 1/10/20 - AltEn, an ethanol plant in Mead, Nebraska, has been the source of numerous community complaints over the use of pesticide-coated seeds for use in its biofuel production and the resulting waste products, which have been shown to contain levels of harmful neonicotinoids and other pesticides well above levels generally considered safe. <http://bit.ly/2Xy9kzr>

REGIONAL

Des Moines Register - Des Moines City Council considering new goals to lower greenhouse gas emissions - 1/8/21- Months after Des Moines Councilman Josh Mandelbaum proposed updated emissions reduction goals, City Council will vote on a slightly diminished version of his resolution that pushes the target to achieve 100%, 24/7 carbon-free electricity from 2030 to 2035. <http://bit.ly/2Lm5KWA>

Quincy (Ill.) Herald-Whig - Study finds decline in water use in ag, food production - 1/9/21 - Climate change and a growing world population require efficient use of natural resources including water. Agricultural production and food manufacturing account for a third of water usage in the U.S. <http://bit.ly/38ze5z3>

Des Moines Register - Iowa's clean energy sector employs 10,000, could create many more jobs with policy changes, group says - 1/8/20- Iowa has about 9,800 wind, solar and other clean energy jobs at 113 businesses, but changes in state and federal policy could drive that number much higher, a group behind a new study on the industry contends. <http://bit.ly/35w1Tx1>

Wichita Eagle - This Kansas man acted on climate change. Here's what you can learn from him - 1/11/21- Glen Chambers's house in north Wichita appears like any other suburban home from the front, but it's actually a domed concrete home he built 30 years ago to maximize the home's efficiency. <http://bit.ly/3qadJol>

Hutchinson (KS) News - COVID-19 treatment effort in Hutchinson draws national attention - 1/9/21- The high usage of a couple of therapeutic monoclonal antibodies for treating COVID-19 patients in Hutchinson has drawn the attention of federal officials. <http://bit.ly/35qU8bJ>

Des Moines Register - Opinion: Could Des Moines' carbon-free resolution hurt the green energy movement? - 1/11/21- The electricity coming through power outlets after the purchase of REC indulgences is the exact same energy that was already coming through power lines. <http://bit.ly/35vMI7b>

2021 TRANSITION

Associated Press - What Biden's Cabinet picks say about how he plans to govern - 1/10/21- Joe Biden promised that his presidency would mean a return to normalcy. His Cabinet picks help demonstrate how he plans to deliver. <http://bit.ly/2K7U7C4>

AgWeek - Vilsack facing long to-do list, including climate, race, rules - 1/8/21- Farm policy veterans say Vilsack will also be expected to move simultaneously on two of President-elect Joe Biden's top priorities: addressing climate change and racial injustice. <http://bit.ly/3qeordp>

Inside EPA - Trump Alters EPA's Succession Line, Opening Door To New Acting Chief - 1/10/21 - President Donald Trump has revised EPA's line of succession, a move that paves the way for a longtime career staffer to serve as acting administrator once President-elect Joe Biden assumes office Jan. 20 following her mid-December promotion to a key role in Administrator Andrew Wheeler's office. <http://bit.ly/3qa6NHN>

Inside EPA - Lawyers Urge Biden To Ease TSCA Scrutiny Of Renewable Fuel Additives - 1/8/21

- Industry attorneys are urging the incoming Biden administration to reverse EPA's long-time regulation of certain renewable fuels and additives as TSCA "new chemicals," charging the agency's recent reiteration of its regulatory approach in an advisory issued last month discourages the substances' uses despite their climate change benefits. <http://bit.ly/3oAPob0>

Inside DPA - State Officials, Environmentalists Detail Early Policy Goals For Biden EPA -

1/8/21- State regulators, environmentalists and other stakeholders are detailing their early policy goals for the incoming Biden EPA, including a push to significantly increase the agency's funding, tackling climate change, bolstering environmental justice efforts, and more. <http://bit.ly/2XxWdyi>

Inside EPA - Critics Urge Biden, Not Congress, To Rescind Trump EPA Science Rule -

1/8/21- House science committee Chairman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) is joining other critics of the Trump EPA's science transparency rule in urging the Biden administration to quickly unwind the policy by administrative action and, if necessary, litigation, rather than having Congress rescind it using the Congressional Review Act (CRA). <http://bit.ly/35scV6f>

CORONAVIRUS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Missouri reports 1,659 new cases of COVID-19 - 1/11/21 - Missouri reported on Monday fewer virus cases compared to the day prior, but the daily average continues to rise. The state reported 1,659 new cases of COVID-19 on Monday, down from 2,744 the day before. <http://bit.ly/3o8WQCC>

Des Moines Register - Iowa reports another 11 COVID-19 deaths, 1,330 confirmed coronavirus cases - 1/10/21- The Iowa Department of Public Health on Sunday was reporting another 11 COVID-19 deaths and an additional 1,330 confirmed cases. <http://bit.ly/2K4casK>

Columbia Missourian - Wastewater doesn't lie': MU scientists use sewage to track COVID-19 - 1/10/21 - MU scientists have been analyzing wastewater from across the state for more than six months to help track the spread of COVID-19 in Missouri communities. Even with the arrival of the COVID-19 vaccine, they don't plan to stop anytime soon. <http://bit.ly/3snme1x>

Columbia (MO) Tribune - Wastewater analysis for COVID-19 continues, with new applications - 1/9/21 - When the COVID-19 pandemic is over, the evidence will be in the wastewater. "We will be able to tell better than anyone else when the virus is gone from the community," said Marc Johnson. <http://bit.ly/2Lm2pH3>

Lincoln (MO) News Now - Winfield approves sewer system upgrades - 1/10/21 -When Ryan Ruckel took over as Winfield's mayor in 2015, he and his city were almost immediately greeted with a nice welcoming gift – a \$20,000 fine from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for ignoring the problems with the sewer system. Six years later, as Ruckel is closing out his run as mayor, Winfield is about to get its sewer upgrades underway. <http://bit.ly/35wpJZA>

FUELS

Cedar Rapids (IA) Gazette - Column: Pull the plug on ethanol - 1/10/21 -The incoming Biden Administration is stating they will engage US agriculture in an effort to fight climate change. This is an interesting paradox for Iowa: an enormous amount of fossil fuel is currently burned to produce the livestock feed and fuel ethanol. Renewable energy could renew rural Iowa: better jobs, better air, better water, and a better climate. And Monarchs.

Energy.Awired.com - Supreme Court Will Hear RFS Waiver Case - 1/10/21 - Late Friday, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to review the 10th Circuit Court decision made a year ago this month that invalidated several small refinery exemptions issued by EPA under the Renewable Fuel Standard. <https://bit.ly/2XteT1R>

Biofuels Digest - Ethanol production below 12% same week last year - 1/10/21 - In Washington, D.C., ethanol production ticked 0.1% higher, or 1,000 barrels per day (b/d), to 935,000 b/d—equivalent to 39.27 million gallons daily, according to EIA data analyzed by the Renewable Fuels Association. <http://bit.ly/3nAsnn2>

Brownfield Ag News - Grassley Helps Close Loophole Blocking Biofuels Producers from COVID Aid - 1/8/21 - Longtime U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley had an instrumental role in closing a loophole that prevented biofuels producers from qualifying for COVID relief funds. <http://bit.ly/2Xx4IJK>

DTN Progressive Farmer - Battle for Lost RFS Gallons | Ag, Biofuels Groups Continue to Fight for 500 Million Gallons of Ethanol Removed From RFS - 1/8/21 - Biofuels and agriculture groups fired back in response to a petroleum group's legal argument that they have no right to have 500 million gallons restored to the Renewable Fuel Standard, in a reply filed by the groups on Thursday in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. <http://bit.ly/39i4MTc>

FarmProgress - Biofuel groups want EPA to restore lost RFS demand - 1/9/21 - A coalition of the nation's largest biofuels and agricultural trade groups filed its reply in support of its motion in the U.S. Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia. The motion, originally filed on November 23, 2020, asks the court to enforce its 2017 decision requiring the EPA to address its improper waiver of 500 million gallons of biofuel demand in the 2016 renewable volume obligation. <http://bit.ly/3nGy2IE>

NATIONAL

Reuters - Companies advised to heed climate warnings - 1/11/21 - Companies must listen to scientists and align their plans to reach net zero targets with a global pact to fight climate change, executives told a Reuters Next conference on Monday. <http://yhoo.it/3sgZBeQ>

Beyond Pesticides (blog) - Tell President-Elect Biden and Congress to Clean Up at EPA— End the Era of Corporate Deception - 1/11/21 - Treatment of chemical companies as clients rather than regulated entities is not new at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), but corruption reached new highs during the Trump administration. <https://bit.ly/39nJXWl>

Utility DIVE - Opinion: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission needs a reboot - 1/8/21 - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), an independent agency within the Department of

Energy responsible for regulating the interstate transmission and sale of electricity and natural gas, needs a massive revamp. The incoming Biden Administration would do well to look for new leadership. <http://bit.ly/3oB4HR3>

Chemical & Engineering News - Outlook 2021: Scientists will refine which chemicals are PFAS - 1/10/21 -This year, an international panel of scientists plans to release a more precise definition of a class of chemicals often found in news headlines—per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). <http://bit.ly/3i7xTwr>

Chemical & Engineering News - C&EN's World Chemical Outlook 2021 - 1/10/21 - A look ahead at the issues that will affect—and connect—chemists and chemistry across the globe. <http://bit.ly/35xDFCx>

Bloomberg Law - Trump Environmental Record Marked by Big Losses, Undecided Cases - 1/11/21 -In October 2017, President Donald Trump's critics were celebrating. They'd won their latest fight against the new administration's industry-friendly environmental agenda and were confident in racking up more victories. Fast forward to 2021, and the story of the Trump team's legal scorecard is more complicated, showing a mixed record of success, failure, and unresolved cases. <https://bit.ly/3nzfwla>

Bloomberg Law - Trump Lawyers Get Argument Time in High Court Climate Case - 1/8/21 - Trump administration lawyers will join the oil and gas industry to battle a climate case before the U.S. Supreme Court, one day before President-elect Joe Biden takes office. <https://bit.ly/3bsQjXI>

Inside EPA - Opponents Of NEPA Overhaul Urge OMB To Block EPA Implementing Rule - 1/8/21 - The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) and other opponents of EPA's plan for adopting the White House Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) controversial National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) overhaul are holding 11th-hour meetings with the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) urging it to block the rule. <http://bit.ly/3qbkRkp>

Inside EPA - Earthjustice Calls Proposed CWA Enforcement Standard Change 'Unlawful' - 1/8/21 - EPA's proposed change to requirements for the type of negligence standard states must use for criminal enforcement of delegated Clean Water Act (CWA) programs is "unlawful" and should be withdrawn because, if finalized, it would allow for inconsistent enforcement of the CWA between states and EPA, says an Earthjustice attorney. <http://bit.ly/3nBlpx0>

Inside EPA - EPA poised to finalize power plant greenhouse gas NSPS - 1/8/21 - The Trump EPA's rewrite of Obama-era greenhouse gas standards for new coal-fired power plants has cleared the inter-agency review process at the White House, signaling that the agency might soon release the final rule, which may retain older standards premised on carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology. <http://bit.ly/38zs2Nr>

Inside EPA - OIG resolves dispute with EPA waste office over OSC protections - 1/8/21 - EPA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) has resolved differences with the agency's waste office over recommendations it made to boost protections and guidance for on-scene coordinators (OSCs)

conducting emergency responses during the COVID-19 pandemic, after the waste office issued alternative guidance documents. <http://bit.ly/35vQXQ9>